

REMARKS

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 14 is allowed, claims 8, 13, 19, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrabaszcz, U.S. Patent No. 6,134,673 and Langer et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,381,554, in view of Boland, US Patent Application Publication no. 2001/0003831.

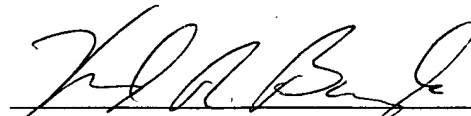
Applicant has amended the subject application such that claims 1-7, 9-12, and 22-28 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 8, 13, 19, 21 have been redrafted to be in independent form. Also, claims 29-43 have been newly added. The newly added claims are as previously submitted, but now cancelled claims, but have been written to depend on the amended independent claims 8, 13, 19 & 21 as indicated.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to carefully review the claim sets to verify that the changes to the claims, particularly the independent claims, are acceptable given the cited prior art and the clarifications made by Applicant to the claim language.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejections of Applicant's claims and allow the case to go to issue. Should the Examiner feel that a telephonic interview with the attorney would be helpful to forward the prosecution of this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the attorney Howard Boyle at telephone number (281) 518-9645.

Respectfully submitted,

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